## HB0081S01 compared with HB0081

{deleted text} shows text that was in HB0081 but was deleted in HB0081S01.

Inserted text shows text that was not in HB0081 but was inserted into HB0081S01.

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# POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIVE COVENANT AMENDMENTS

2017 GENERAL SESSION STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Brian M. Greene

Senate Sponsor:

#### **LONG TITLE**

#### **General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to post-employment restrictive covenants.

#### **Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- outlines the scope of the chapter;
- addresses consideration and termination of employment as they relate to post-employment restrictive covenants;
- modifies remedy provisions;
- restricts the time for bringing an action to enforce post-employment restrictive covenants; and

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makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

**Other Special Clauses:** 

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:** 

AMENDS:

**34-51-201**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 153

**34-51-301**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 153

ENACTS:

**34-51-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**34-51-302**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:* 

Section 1. Section **34-51-103** is enacted to read:

<u>34-51-103.</u> Scope of chapter.

- (1) Consistent with this chapter, a court of competent jurisdiction determines whether a post-employment restrictive covenant is enforceable.
- (2) Notwithstanding Subsection (1), nothing in this chapter prohibits an employer or employee from seeking to enforce or challenge a post-employment restrictive covenant through arbitration.

Section 2. Section **34-51-201** is amended to read:

#### 34-51-201. Post-employment restrictive covenants.

- (1) In addition to any requirements imposed under common law, for a post-employment restrictive covenant entered into on or after May 10, 2016, an employer and an employee may not enter into a post-employment restrictive covenant for a period of more than one year from the day on which the employee is no longer employed by the employer.
- (2) (a) An employer may not enforce a post-employment restrictive covenant against an employee if:
  - (i) at the time the post-employment restrictive covenant is executed, the employee:
  - (A) is employed by the employer; and

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- (B) does not receive new consideration such as an increase in wages or a promotion; or
- (ii) without cause, the employer terminates the employment of the employee within

  {one year}six months of the date on which the employee executes the post-employment

  restrictive covenant.
- (b) For purposes of Subsection (2)(a)(i), continuation of employment of an existing employee is not consideration for a post-employment restrictive covenant.
  - (3) A post-employment restrictive covenant that violates this section is void.

Section 3. Section <del>{34-51-301}</del> <u>34-51-302</u> is <del>{amended to read:</del>

34-51-301. Award of arbitration costs, attorney fees and court costs, and damages.

If an employer seeks to enforce a post-employment restrictive covenant through arbitration or by filing a civil action and it is determined that the post-employment restrictive covenant is unenforceable, the employer is liable for [the employee's]:

- (1) the employee's costs associated with arbitration;
- (2) the employee's attorney fees and court costs; and
  - (3) three times the amount of actual damages.

Section 4. Section 34-51-302 is enacted to read:

### enacted to read:

<u>34-51-302.</u> Timing of action.

An employer may not bring an action to enforce a post-employment restrictive covenant after the day on which the time period stated in the post-employment restrictive covenant expires.

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**Legislative Review Note** 

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel}